

Bill would allow individuals to claim charitable contributions to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti on their 2009 tax return

Washington, DC - Congressman John Adler voted today to pass bipartisan legislation to allow individuals making a charitable contribution to victims of the earthquake in Haiti to claim these donations on their 2009 tax return. Congressman Adler is also a co-sponsor of this bill.

"Despite the tough economic times facing our nation, Americans across the country have generously donated time, money, and energy to relief efforts in Haiti," Congressman Adler said. "This measure provides an immediate tax relief for those who have already given and incentive for those who are considering a charitable contribution."

This bipartisan legislation would allow individuals making a charitable contribution after January 11th and before March 1st to claim these charitable contributions on their 2009 tax return. Without this change, taxpayers would need to wait until next year to claim a deduction for these contributions on their 2010 tax return.

The bill would also make clear that taxpayers making a charitable contribution to victims of the Haiti earthquake through a text message will be able to rely on their cell phone bill when claiming a charitable contribution. Donors have contributed more than \$220 million to major U.S. relief groups, with \$22 million made through cell phone text messages.

The House also passed a resolution expressing the deepest condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss of life and the damage caused by the earthquake in Haiti.

In 2005, Congress enacted similar legislation for charitable contributions that were made to victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami that struck in December of 2004.